

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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AMBASSADOR MORIARTY'S REMARKS AT MEDCAP OPENING CEREMONY AUGUST 18, 2008

District Commissioner Rahman, Dr. Islam, Major Sabrery, members of the press, Ladies and gentlemen: Assalam Aleikum and good morning. I am very pleased to join you here today for the opening ceremony of the Medical Civil Action Program or MEDCAP. These exercises will continue the tradition of close cooperation between the U.S. and Bangladeshi militaries. Over the next several days, medical personnel from the U.S. Navy and Marines and from the Bangladesh Army Medical Directorate will be providing free basic medical and dental care to Bangladeshis living in the Rangpur District.

Working together, each day they will provide more than 1,000 people medical treatment that will improve their lives.

These exercises provide a wonderful forum for Americans to share information and ideas with the Bangladeshi military on medical issues. One immediate goal of this exercise is to increase the interoperability between the military medical departments of the Bangladesh Army and the U.S. We hope that this exercise will pave the way for further medical discussions between the U.S. and Bangladeshi militaries and for future exercises similar to this one.

This exercise is an example of the productive and mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and Bangladesh. The U.S. stands ready to assist Bangladesh in facilitating democratic governance, prosperity, and stability. Over the last 37 years, personnel from the U.S. military, USAID and the State Department have worked hand-in-hand with their Bangladeshi counterparts on a wide range of important issues.

Whether developing critical infrastructure, improving the lives of ordinary citizens or helping recover from natural disasters, such as last year's devastating cyclone, the U.S. has sought to provide support and expertise.

I am sure that this MEDCAP will be a resounding success. Congratulations to all those participating in the exercise and thank you for providing critical medical care to the people of Bangladesh.

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